

# **Indians and Europeans on the Northwest Coast: Historical Context**

## **Essential Questions**

**DIRECTIONS:** As you read, keep in mind how the Europeans and Natives interacted with each other based on cultural and economic backgrounds. Answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper.

### **Introduction:**

- 1) When did documented contact between Europeans and Native Americans on the Northwest Coast begin?
- 2) What year marks a new phase of interaction when overland fur traders took "center stage?"
- 3) What six (6) European/"western" countries visited the Northwest Coast?
- 4) When early contact between Europeans and Natives began, what was the status of the United States?

### **Imagining:**

- 5) What was the Northwest Passage? Why was it desirable to find it?
- 6) What role did Juan de Fuca play in creating the myth of the Northwest Passage?
- 7) Describe the interaction between the Clasp and the Europeans.

### **Meeting:**

- 8) What is the "right of first discovery?"
- 9) What is the significance of the Treaty of Tordesillas to European settlement of the Pacific Northwest?
- 10) What was Spain's reaction to Russian exploration of Alaska in the late 1700s?
- 11) Why did the Spanish keep their explorations secret from the other European powers?
- 12) Why were coastal natives interested in trading with Europeans?
- 13) What role did the potlatch system play in redistributing wealth?
- 14) Describe how the economic systems between coastal natives and Europeans similar.
- 15) Explain what diseases the Europeans introduced and the impact it had on native populations.
- 16) Why was the Pacific Northwest a "siren song" for European scientific explorers?

### **Living Together:**

- 17) Why did James Cook's visit in 1778 to the Northwest coast mark a turning point in economic and social history of the region?
- 18) How did the sea otter trade change and restructure Native economies?
- 19) Describe the significance of the Nootka Controversy.

### **Conclusion:**

- 20) How did the change in the fur trade in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century shift the relationship between natives and Europeans?